

Presenting a live 90-minute webinar with interactive Q&A

Optimizing Enforceable Patent Claim Scope, Minimizing Costs for Global Patent Portfolios

Protection Differences in Different Jurisdictions, Where and When of Claims Amendment,
Cost Considerations

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

1pm Eastern | 12pm Central | 11am Mountain | 10am Pacific

Today's faculty features:

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Optimizing Enforceable Patent Claim Scope, Minimizing Costs for Global Patent Portfolios

Presented by:

Amanda Murphy, Anthony Tridico,
Maeve O'Flynn, and Victoria Barker

19 January 2021

FINNEGAN

Getting a Granted Patent is not Difficult...

... but getting a useful patent can be!

In the chemical and life science industries the subject-matter of the specific examples is usually patentable, so getting a granted patent can be straightforward. But does the resulting patent enable your commercial objectives?

Agenda



Scope of Protection & Enforcement



When Can the Claims be Amended?



What are the Cost Considerations?



Putting it into Practice



Q&A

Who is the Infringer?

- Have you asked who the infringer is and where they are based?
- **Important considerations:**
 - What infringes?
 - Component, apparatus, system, method
 - Who infringes?
 - End user/customer, manufacturer, system operator, service provider(s)
 - Where and when does infringement occur?
 - Manufacturing, assembly, importation, sale, use/operation
 - To, from, within what jurisdiction (e.g., U.S., Germany, China...)

Direct Infringement: 35 U.S.C. § 271(a)

- **What, who, and where considerations:**
 - Numerous component suppliers are often involved in a global supply chain.
 - Consider your business model and competitors
 - Example:
 - Invention: Transgenic mouse and model for screening for activity of a compound.
 - Your Business:
 - Sell mice
 - License model
 - Perform screens for customers
 - Pharma development
 - Competitors: ?



Direct Infringement: 35 U.S.C. § 271(a)

A white silhouette map of the United States is centered on a light gray background. The map is slightly offset to the right and bottom, creating a drop shadow effect. The text of the statute is overlaid on the western and central parts of the map.

Whoever without authority **makes**, **uses**, **offers to sell**, or **sells** any patented invention, ***within the United States*** or **imports** ***into the United States*** any patented invention during the term of the patent therefore, infringes the patent.

Indirect Infringement: 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) & (c)

- **Induced Infringement**

(b) Whoever **actively induces** infringement of a patent shall be liable as an infringer.

No geographical restriction!



- **Contributory Infringement**

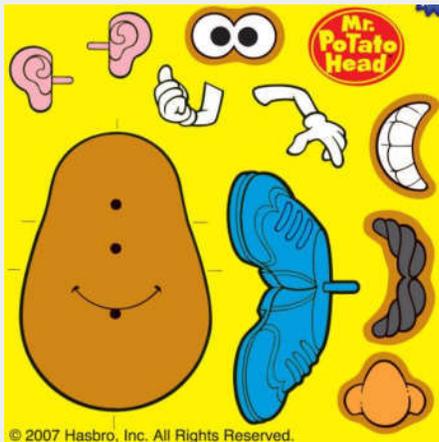
(c) Whoever **offers to sell** or **sells** **within the United States** or **imports into the United States** **a component** of a patented machine, manufacture, combination or composition, or a material or apparatus for use in practicing a patented process, constituting a material part of the invention, **knowing** the same to be **especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement** of such patent, and **not a staple article** or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial noninfringing use, shall be liable as a contributory infringer.

Extraterritorial Infringement

	§ 271(f)(1)	§ 271(f)(2)	§ 271(g)
Type of Claim	Product	Product	Process
Infringing Act	Supply all or substantial portion of components in or from U.S.	Supply component especially made for infringing product in or from U.S.	Import into, sell, offer to sell, use product made by infringing process into/in U.S.
Extraterritorial Activity	Combination of components	Combination of components	Manufacture by infringing process

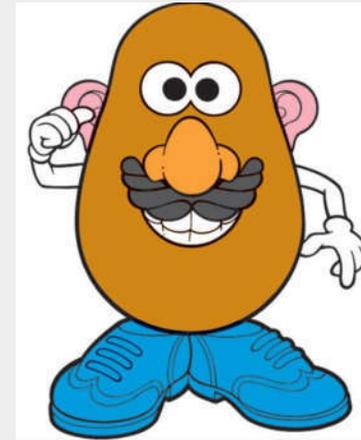
35 U.S.C. § 271(f)(1) and (f)(2): Example

Components



Supplied from the U.S.

Patented Invention



Combined outside the U.S.

Coordinating Regulatory and Patent

- Example areas where maintaining consistency in descriptions, terminology, definitions related to new medicinal product in regulatory and patent applications is important
 - Orange Book listing: particularly of method claims
 - FDA approved indication and claimed indication
 - SPCs (term extension in Europe)
 - Approved drug composition and claimed drug composition
- Tracking later inventions in Clinical Setting
- Messaging Coordination and Impact on Claim Construction
 - Regulatory Submissions
 - Marketing Materials
 - Inventor Publications

Induced Infringement

- Direct Infringement
- Specific Intent
- Proposed label: The proposed generic label is substantially identical in all material respects to the approved pharmaceutical label.



What Protection is Afforded by Process Claims?

- TRIPS Article 28—Rights conferred
 1. A patent shall confer on its owner the following exclusive rights:
 - (b) where the subject matter of a patent is a process, to prevent third parties not having the owner's consent from the act of **using the process**, and from the acts of: using, offering for sale, selling or importing for these purposes at least the **product obtained directly** by that process.

Does Your Process Claim Have Too Many Steps?

- Different steps carried out by different parties?
 - Most jurisdictions have a concept of “joint infringement” but this is complex
 - EP: If a first party is an indirect or direct infringer, then can pursue a second party who has aided in the infringement.
 - KR: Are there multiple actors who are each aware of the other actors’ partial implementation of the patented invention? Do they intend to make use of the actors’ partial implementation of the patent?
- Different steps carried out in different territories?
 - There are limited circumstances under which courts have found infringement even when one process step has been carried out in a different territory.
- Does your claim include only the steps that will be carried out by a single party in a single territory?

Example

A process for making polymer P comprising the steps of:

- (a) mixing monomers A and B to produce intermediate C;
- (b) heating C with catalyst X to produce polymer P.

- If C is later found to be commercially available, who infringes this claim?

What is the Direct Product of your Claimed Process?

- Your process claim may be ineffective if the potential infringer is importing/using/selling products that are not the products resulting **directly** from the claimed process.
 - US - 35 USC 271(g):
 - A product which is made by a patented process will not be considered an infringing product if:
 - it is **materially changed by subsequent processes**; or
 - it becomes a **trivial and nonessential component** of another product.
 - EP - Article 64(2) EPC:
 - If the subject-matter of the European patent is a process, the protection conferred by the patent shall extend to the products **directly** obtained by such process.

What is the Direct Product? – UK cases

- Pioneer Electronics v Warner Music [1995]
 - Test is whether the product had lost its identity or not
- MedImmune v Novartis Pharmaceuticals [2011]
 - Methods for producing and selecting bacteriophage particles that bound to target epitopes or antigens with desired specificity
 - Invention was, arguably, in upstream aspects of the claimed process
 - Court upheld identity test; not relevant that downstream steps were conventional manufacturing steps
- Consider claiming downstream steps of the process

Example

A process for making polymer P comprising the steps of:
(a) mixing monomers A and B to produce intermediate C;
(b) heating C with catalyst X to produce polymer P.

- Is this enough protection for your invention?
- Do you need a claim to e.g. “An article comprising polymer P” or to a downstream process?

Can you Obtain Evidence to Enforce your Process Claim?

- Can be difficult to obtain evidence of infringement of a process claim. Some jurisdictions allow for a shift in burden of proof:
 - CN: The plaintiff has the burden of proof for patent infringement but the burden of proof shifts to the defendant for a claim directed to a process for producing a new product.
 - KR: A recent amendment (Article 126 bis of the KPA) alleviates slightly the plaintiff's burden of proof in cases where it is difficult to obtaining infringing evidence. A defendant cannot simply deny infringing activity, but must show its specific embodiment of practice.
 - JP: Recent changes state that the patentee can request the court to issue an order on the alleged infringer to submit documentary evidence and a new "inspection" system will shortly be available, allowing the patentee to request a court-ordered inspection, in which the inspector designated by the court visits a site of the alleged infringer to collect necessary evidence.
- In the US, discovery is available to obtain evidence, but there must be a Rule 11 (good faith) basis before proceedings can begin
- EP: enforcement directive ensures that evidence can be gathered and preserved
 - But what if the process is carried out overseas?

Poll question

True or False?

For product-by-process claims in Europe, is it required that the infringer has carried out the process steps as recited in the claim?

(answer = false)

What about Product-by-Process Claims?

- Is it required that the infringer has carried out the process steps as recited in the claim?
 - Differences between jurisdictions:
 - EP, KR: process limitations are construed only as means to specify the structure or characteristics/property of the product
 - US, CN: process limitations are considered when determining patent infringement
 - JP: Broad scope of protection covering products made by both the claimed process and products made by a different process but is not distinguishable from a product which has actually been manufactured by the claimed process (Supreme Court judgments on "Pravastatin" cases, 2016)
- Is there another way to characterize the product?

Licensing considerations

- Are you intending to license the Patent? Will this impact on claim strategy?
 - For example, it may be preferable to divide subject matter into multiple divisional applications that can be licensed individually, rather than trying to license part of a claim
- Terminal disclaimers, co-ownership and licensing

What about Enforcement?

- The scope of protection is determined by the claims, but the description and drawings may be used to aid interpretation
- Applicants also need to be wary of file-wrapper estoppel
- Enforcement of EPO patents will take place in the National Courts
- Be wary of relying on the Doctrine of Equivalents
- Use claims may be difficult to enforce, unless they relate to a specific medical use



Estoppels & File History

- In practice, everyone reviews the file history during invalidation proceedings in Europe, but this is rarely binding. Exceptions:
 - the point at issue is truly unclear without reference to the file history; or
 - it would be contrary to the public interest for the contents of the file to be ignored
- References to file history to interpret scope of protection rejected by Justice Carr in L'Oreal v RN Ventures:

It should be emphasised that reference to the prosecution history is the exception, and not the rule. I understand why it was relied upon in the present case, although I have not accepted RN Ventures' submissions about it. Parties should think carefully in future before incurring additional costs in arguing about the prosecution history

Estoppels & File History

- There is no presumption of validity in the UK, so the Courts re-examine the question of validity “from scratch”
- The protocol to Article 69 EPC only lists the description and drawings as matter which is used to interpret the claims – an amendment to refer to prosecution history was rejected
- No interest in prosecution of corresponding foreign applications
- It is, however, still a good idea to be consistent with arguments, as a lack of consistency may undermine credibility

Summary

- Think about infringement upfront and use this to help determine the claim categories to pursue
- If you need process claims, are these enforceable?
 - Should you add or delete process steps?
 - Will competitors be selling the direct product?
 - Will all process steps be carried out in the same territory by the same party?
 - Will it be possible to prove infringement?
 - Is trade secret protection a viable alternative?

Agenda

-  Scope of Protection & Enforcement
-  When Can the Claims be Amended?
-  What are the Cost Considerations?
-  Putting it into Practice
-  Q & A

Poll question

Can claims be amended on entry to the Korean national phase?
Yes or no?

(answer is no)

When can Claims be Amended - Prosecution

	National/ Regional phase entry	Before examination begins	During examination	At allowance
	Yes	Yes - provided that the search has not begun	Yes – provided that the amended claims do not relate to unsearched subject-matter	Voluntary amendments are only allowed at the discretion of the Examiner
	Yes	Yes	Yes – after final Office Action amendments are entered at the discretion of the Examiner	Voluntary amendments submitted after receiving a Notice of Allowance are entered at the discretion of the Examiner
	Yes	Either when requesting examination or within 3 months from the date of receipt of notification of entry into substantive examination stage	Yes – amendments responding to a ground of rejection are permitted. Voluntary amendments are entered at the discretion of the Examiner	No
	Yes	Yes	Yes – but freedom to amend is restricted in response to a Decision of Rejection	No
	No	Yes	Yes, in response to a first preliminary rejection. Limitations may apply on amendments made in response to a subsequent office actions.	No

Drafting for maximum flexibility

- Ensure all key combinations of features are explicitly disclosed
 - at the EPO, the “best” basis for combinations is the claim dependencies, but statements in the description may also be relied upon
- Consider subject-matter eligibility requirements when drafting
 - e.g., EPO will not allow claims to surgical methods practiced on the human or animal body
 - do you need two claim strings?
- Sanity check the claims
 - Do they have antecedent basis? Do the dependencies make sense? Do they narrow to protect your commercial embodiment? Are they useful in case of a post grant challenge?
- Limit the number of independent claims
 - EPO: only one independent claim per claim category
 - USPTO: Restriction Requirements



Amending Claims Post Grant in the U.S. (*inter partes*)

- During litigation:
 - U.S. courts can correct only errors *plainly evident on face of patent*
 - Certificates of Correction is only effective for causes of action arising after the CoC was issued
- During USPTO contentious proceedings (IPR/PGR/CBM)
 - From outset (2012), motion-to-amend grant rates have been very low.
 - 2017: law changed to place the burden of establishing unpatentability for proposed amended claims on the petitioner
 - 2019: PTAB initiated a motion to amend pilot program, providing patent owner with option to seek preliminary guidance from the Board and chance to revise the amended claims late in proceeding
 - 2020: Fed. Cir. affirms Board's ability to *sua sponte* cite prior art of record against amended claims

Amending Claims Post Grant in the U.S. (*ex partes*)

Certificate of Correction
(§§ 254 & 255)

Reissue (§ 251)

Ex partes
Procedures

Ex parte Reexamination
(§§ 301-307)

Supplemental
Examination (§ 257)

Certificates of Correction

- Minor mistakes.
 - USPTO “mistake.”
 - Patentee “mistake” that is of “clerical or typographical nature, or of minor character.”
- **Take home point:**
 - Proofread published patent!
- Costs and time.
 - Relatively inexpensive (\$150 government fee) and quick.

Reissue

To correct errors that render a patent
“partly or wholly inoperative or invalid”

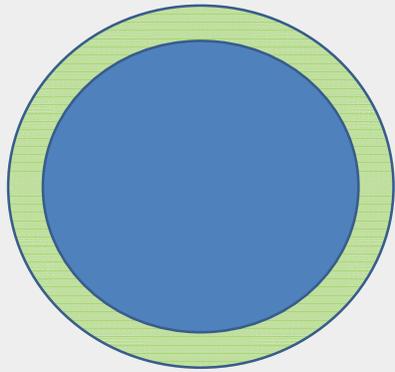
Mistakes in
specification or
drawings

Missing or
improper priority
claim
(U.S. or foreign)

Inventorship

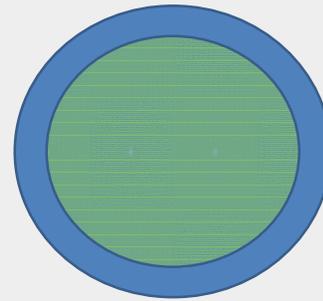
Claims
are too broad or
narrow

Broadening v. Narrowing



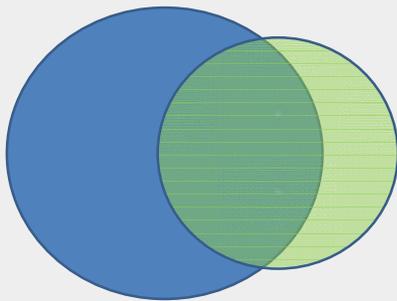
“Broadened”

ABC AB



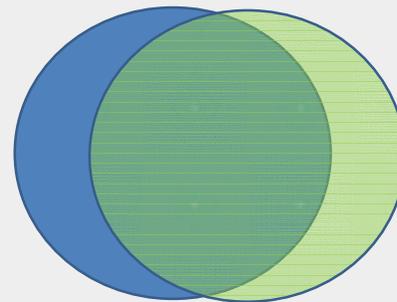
“Narrowed”

ABC ABCD



“Broadened”

ABC ADEF



“Broadened”

ABC ACD

Broadening Reissue (within two years)

Broadening reissue applications must be filed within two years of the patent issue date, § 251

One broadening reissue application within two years **IS** sufficient for –

One narrowing reissue application within two years **IS NOT** sufficient for –

Broadening different claims after two years

In re Doll, 419 F.2d 925 (C.C.P.A. 1970)

Second (and additional) reissue applications after two years,

In re Staats, 671 F.3d 1350 (Fed. Cir. 2012)

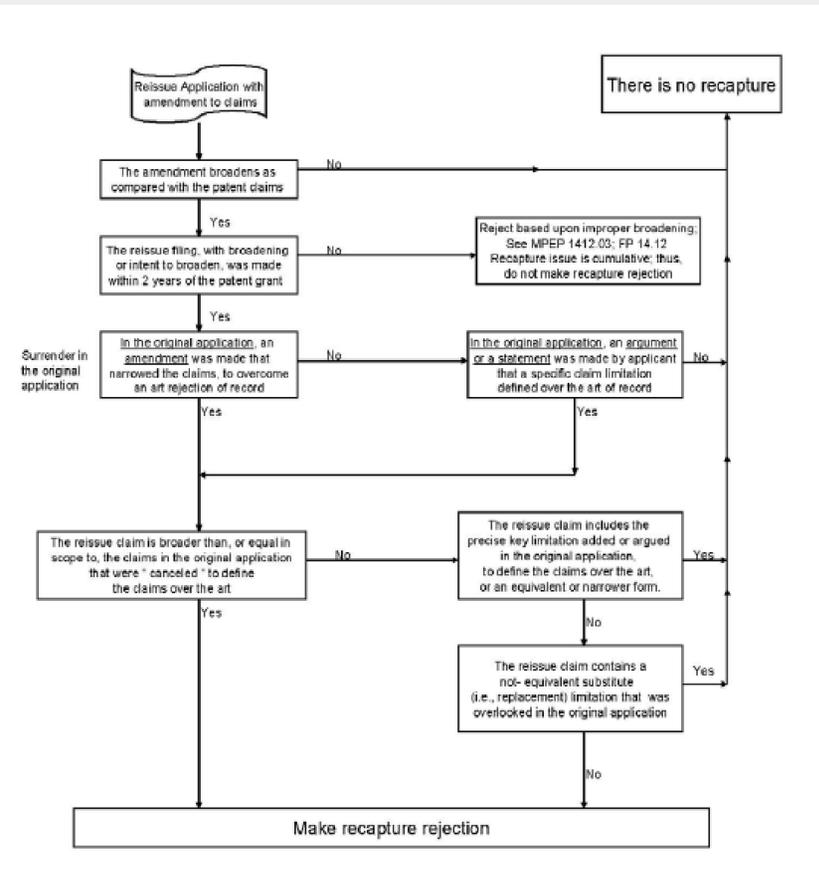
Broadening after two years

In re Graff, 111 F.3d 874 (Fed. Cir. 1997)

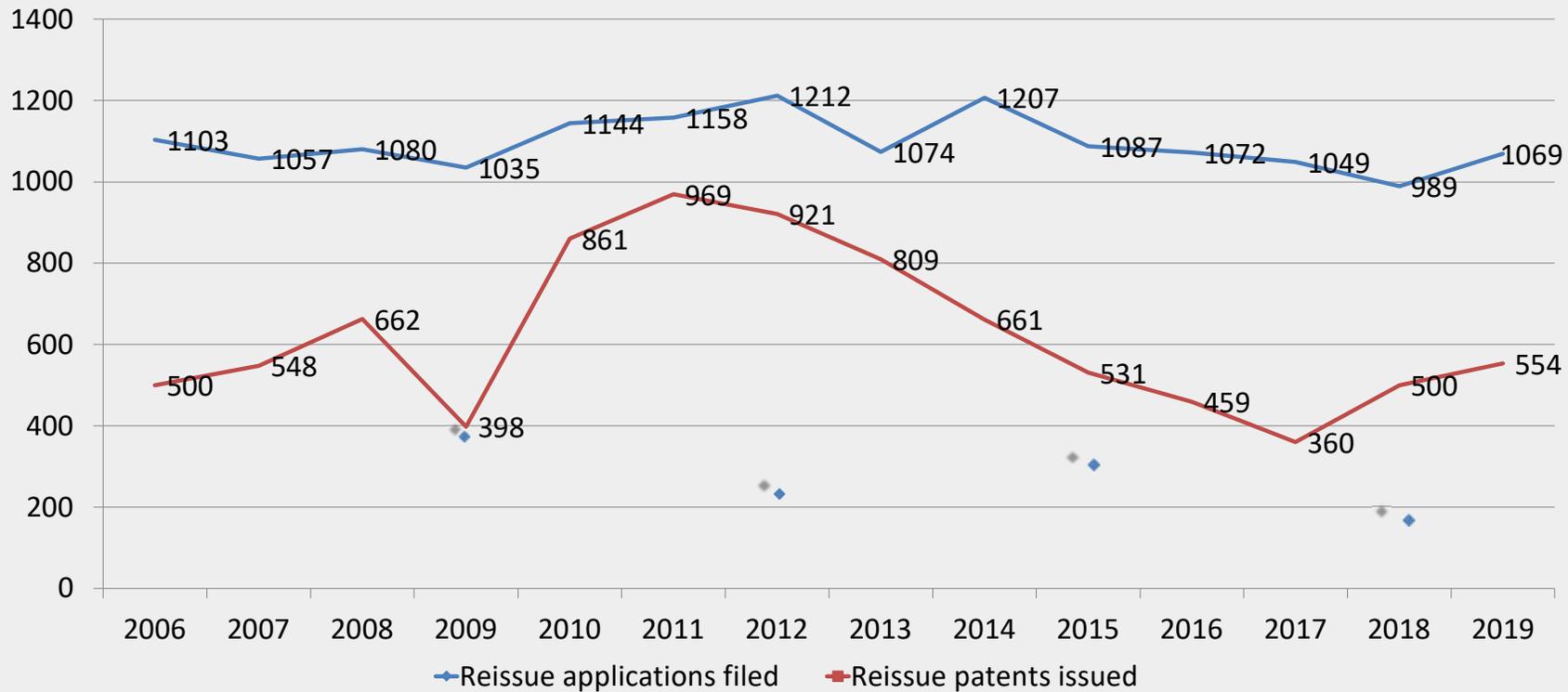
Broadening Reissue – Recapture

- Cannot “recapture” claimed subject matter surrendered to obtain the original patent (MPEP 1412.02)

–Judicial doctrine based on the rationale that cancellation or amendment of an original claim in order to overcome prior art is a deliberate action and not an “error” to be corrected by reissue
–*In re Youman*, 679 F.3d 1335 (Fed. Cir. 2012)



Reissue Applications



Source: USPTO Annual Reports.

57% of reissue applications filed issued (8733/15336).

Reissue – Pros and Cons

- **Pros**

- Easier ability to amend (even with broader claims).
- No direct challenger involvement.
- Since 2014, reissues go to the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU), not to original examiner.
 - Made the process faster (e.g., from 4.5 to about 2 years).
 - But tradeoff by not having examiner that allowed original patent.
- Can file continuations.

- **Cons**

- Requires admission of an “error.”
- Exposes whole patent to review.
- No statutory expedited processing.
- **Intervening rights if amend claims.**

Ex-Parte Reexamination

To address issues that raise
“substantial new questions” of patentability

Claims are possibly
too broad
in view of prior art
in form of printed publications

(can only narrow claims)

Patent owner or third party may
request, but once instituted,
entirely *ex parte*

Ex Parte Reexam – Pros and Cons

- **Pros**

- Easier to amend than in IPR/PGR.
- No direct challenger involvement.
- Fast: handled with “special dispatch.”

- **Cons**

- No continuations: win, lose, or appeal after final rejection.
- Cannot broaden claims.
- Goes to the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU), not to original examiner.
- **Intervening rights if amend claims.**

Comparison of Reissue to Reexam

	<u><i>Reissue</i></u>	<u><i>Ex Parte Reexam</i></u>
Grounds	“Error” in patent	Prior art patents or publications
Types of Amendments	Narrower or broader claims	Narrower claims
Examination	Like a regular application	Only two Office Actions
Examiner	CRU	CRU
Gov’t Fees	\$3840 (filing + exam + issue) (as of Oct. 2, 2020)	\$6300 - \$12,600 (as of Oct. 2, 2020)
Speed	No special speed 1 st Office Action in 5-8 months	“special dispatch” 1 st Office Action in 5-6 months

Supplemental Examination

- 35 U.S.C. 257 Supplemental examinations to consider, reconsider, or correct information.

not limited to patents
and printed
publications

- (a) REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATION.—A **patent owner** may request supplemental examination of a patent in the Office to **consider, reconsider, or correct information believed to be relevant to the patent**, in accordance with such requirements as the Director may establish. Within 3 months ...the Director shall ...issu[e] a certificate indicating whether the information presented in the request raises a substantial new question of patentability.”
- (b) REEXAMINATION ORDERED.—If the certificate issued under subsection (a) indicates that a substantial new question of patentability is raised by 1 or more items of information in the request, the Director shall order reexamination of the patent. ... During the reexamination, the Director shall address each substantial new question of patentability identified during the supplemental examination, notwithstanding the limitations in chapter 30 relating to patents and printed publication or any other provision of such chapter.

Supplemental Examination Effect = Insulate Patent



- 35 U.S.C. 257 Supplemental examinations to consider, reconsider, or correct information
- c) EFFECT.—
 - (1) IN GENERAL.—A patent **shall not be held unenforceable** on the basis of conduct relating to information that had not been considered, was inadequately considered, or was incorrect in a prior examination of the patent if the **information was considered, reconsidered, or corrected during a supplemental examination** of the patent. The making of a request under subsection (a), or the absence thereof, shall not be relevant to enforceability of the patent under section 282

Factors

Cost (as of Oct. 2, 2020)
\$4620 request
\$12,700 if reexam ordered

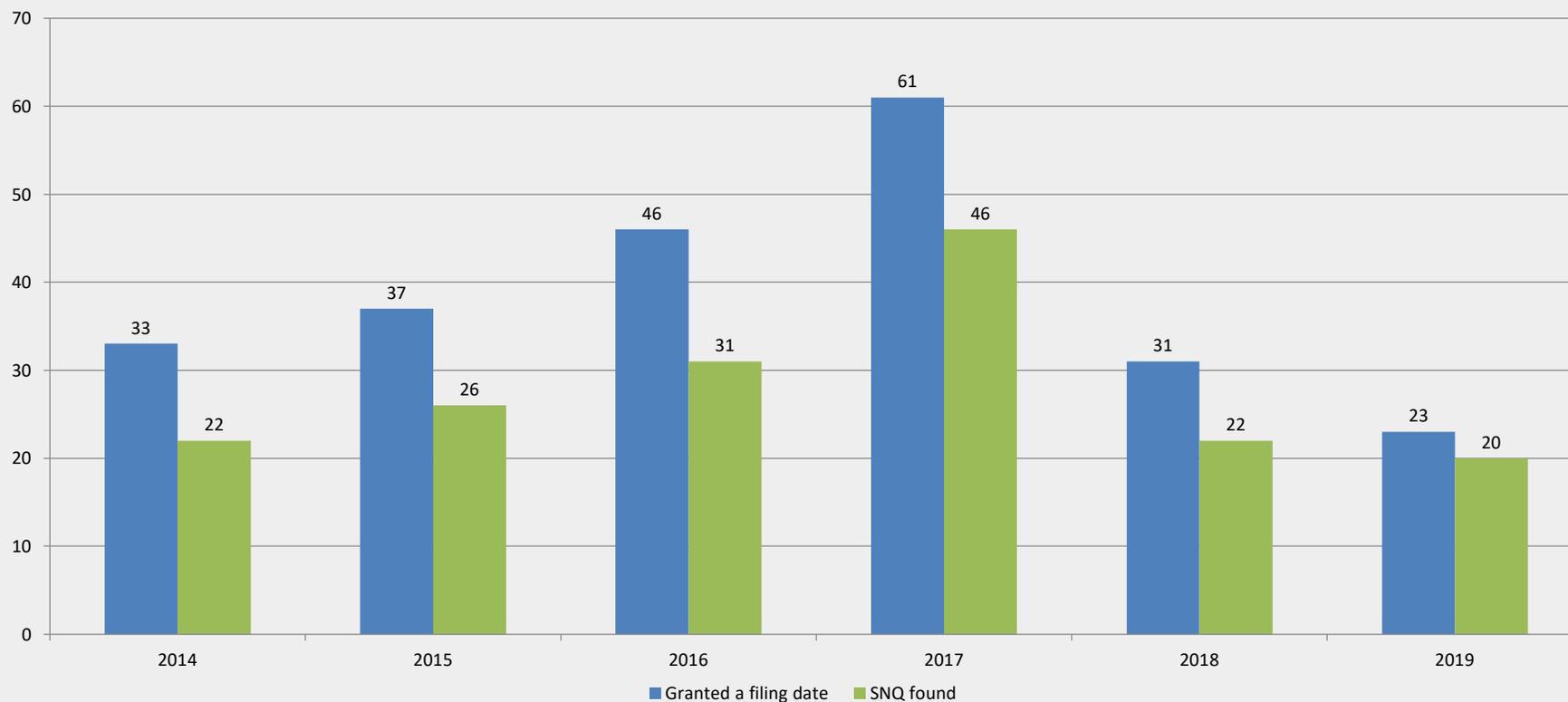
Timing
Filing to:
SE determination 1.12 mos.
SE Certificate 21.95 mos.

Up to 12 items may accompany request

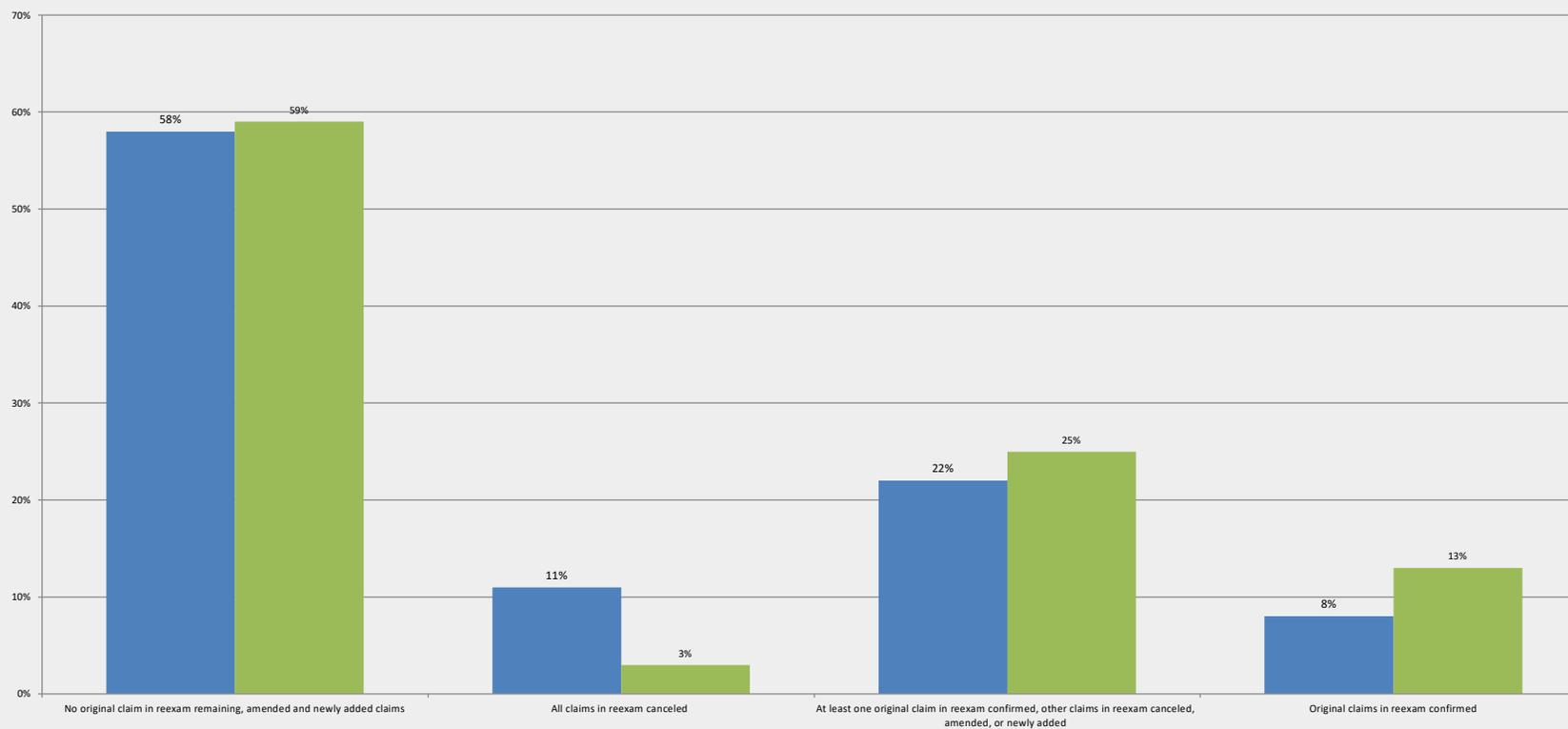
Patent owner admissions

No interviews and no amendments with request (though possible in subsequent reexam, if ordered)

Supplemental Examination Stats (FY2014-FY2019)



Closer Look Where SNQ Found (FY2014-FY2019)



Amending Claims after Grant at the EPO

- The EPO's Central Limitation procedure allows Patentees to **restrict** the scope of the claims after grant
 - Cannot be used to correct errors or add dependent claims
 - Only examined for compliance with Articles 84 and 123 EPC
 - Changes will be applied *ab initio* across all validation states
 - Opposition and Appeal Proceedings cannot be ongoing
- No reasons need to be given for requesting the limitation
- If a request is refused, there is no limit on the number of times that the Patentee can re-attempt the Central Limitation. Consequently, there is no case law!
- Approximately 40 requests filed per year, around 87% of these are successful

Amending Claims after Grant at the EPO

- During Opposition proceedings, Patentees may make any amendments that are “**occasioned by a ground of opposition**”, and do not broaden the scope of the claims as granted or as originally filed
 - adding dependent claims and the correction of errors is not normally “occasioned by a ground of opposition”
 - claims can be significantly redrafted e.g. can convert a product claim into a process claim
- During Opposition and Appeal proceedings, there are restrictions on **when** claims can be amended – amendments may be rejected if they are deemed to be late-filed

Amending Claims During National Actions in Europe

Amendment is at the discretion of the court
Amendments may be refused if submitted late during the proceedings
But patentee always has the option of central limitation at the EPO – this is not considered an abuse of process

There is a limitation procedure before the French Patent Office that applies to both FR and EP(FR) patents. This is separate procedure to any infringement or revocation proceedings before the court



Amendments can be made during litigation – usually via a system of auxiliary requests. May not be allowed if submitted late

Amendments are common in nullity proceedings but, since 2010, these should be made within a time limit set by the court

An invalid patent may be converted into a utility patent, if it would be a valid UP

Amending Claims Post Grant in China, Japan and Korea

- The freedom to amend claims during post-grant proceedings in China, Japan and Korea is relatively limited, but the practice in these countries is roughly aligned:



- In **China**, claim amendments during invalidation proceedings are generally limited to (1) deletion of a claim, (2) deletion of a technical solution from a claim, (3) further limitation to claims e.g. by combining claims, and (4) correction of obvious errors
- In **Korea**, Patentees may request the correction of errors in a granted patent, provided that invalidation proceedings are not ongoing. Claims may also be amended during invalidation proceedings. In both cases, claim amendments are limited to (i) narrowing the scope of claims; (ii) correcting clearly erroneous terms; or (iii) clarifying an ambiguous description
- In **Japan**, claims may be amended during both opposition and invalidation proceedings. In both cases, claim amendments are limited to (a) limiting the scope of the claims; (b) by cancelling claims; (c) by correcting mistakes in the description; (d) by clarifying points that are unclear; and (e) by changing claim dependencies

Summary

- Amending claims post-grant is far from trivial in most jurisdictions, and the freedom to amend can be limited relatively early in prosecution (e.g. Korea)
- Broadening claims late in prosecution is generally prohibited so keep an eye on claim scope during prosecution
- There is no mechanism to correct errors in a granted EPO patent, so the text proposed for grant must be checked carefully

Agenda

-  Scope of Protection & Enforcement
-  When Can the Claims be Amended?
-  What are the Cost Considerations?
-  Putting it into Practice
-  Q & A

Poll question

How many claims are “free” at the EPO?

- a) 10
- b) 15
- c) 20
- d) no limit

(answer is b)

When Are Excess Claim Fees Due?

	National/Regional phase entry	Before examination begins	During examination	At allowance	How many claims are free?
	Yes	Yes - if not paid on entry	No	Only if not paid earlier	15
	Yes	Yes - if not paid on entry	Yes, if more claims are added	Only if not paid earlier	20
	Yes - based on PCT	No	No	No	10
	No	Cost for request for examination proportional to #	No	Grant fee proportional to #	0
	No	Cost for request for examination proportional to #	No	Grant fee proportional to #	0

We don't want to pay claim fees in Europe!

- A US-style claim set with 50 claims will cost ~\$10,500; a claim set with 100 claims will cost ~\$48,000
- Where to start reducing claims?
 - the EPO generally dislikes claiming by result
 - all essential features must be present in the claims
 - applications can generally only contain one independent claim per claim category
 - combine claim strings
 - e.g., instead of independent compound and use claim strings, can you combine to “the compound of claim X or the use of claim Y wherein...”
 - think about combining claims but be careful not to add matter!
 - and/or; optionally; preferably



Does the Number of Claims Impact Official Fees?

- EPO, US and China – examination fee and annuities are independent of the number of claims
- Japan, Korea - examination fee and annuities depend on the number of claims
- Possible cost savings?
 - Portfolio of 100 KR patents (filed between 10 and 20 years ago)
 - Reducing number of claims from 25 to 5 in each patent would lead to a cost saving of approx. \$93,000 or €78,000 **per year**
 - Portfolio of 100 JP patents (filed between 10 and 20 years ago)
 - Reducing number of claims from 25 to 5 in each patent would lead to a cost saving of approx. \$94,000 or €80,000 **per year**

Translation Costs

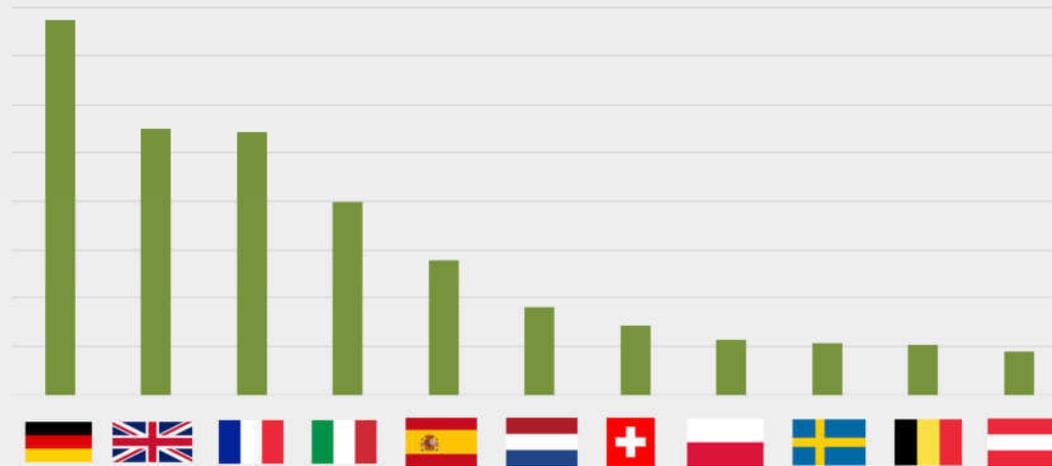
- Translations are typically charged per word
 - Longer claim sets will mean higher translation costs
- In Europe, claims translations are required upon allowance and upon validation:
 - Allowance: translations into two remaining EPO languages (EN, FR, DE)
 - Validation: many countries require a translation of at least the claims into a local language



Where to validate?

- Where does your business operate and where are your competitors?
- How much can I afford to spend?
 - No translations for CH, DE, FR, GB, IE, LI, LU, MC & MT
 - Claims only for AL, BA, DK, FI, HR, HU, IS, LT, LV, MK, NL, SE, & SI
 - Full translations for AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, ES, EE, GR, IT, ME, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SK, SM, TR

10 Largest European Economies



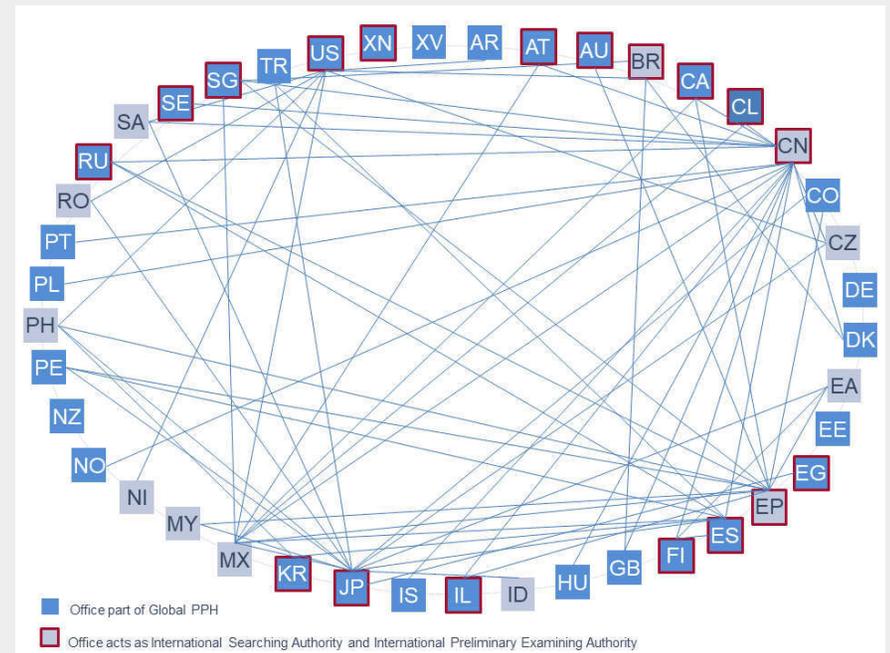
National renewal fees

- Prior to grant, renewal fees are payable to the EPO
- After grant, renewal fees must be paid to the local patent office
 - no correlation with country size or GDP!

	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	Total	Relative to GDP
Germany	130	180	240	290	350	1190	308
UK	99	121	143	165	187	715	261
France	76	96	136	180	220	708	261
Italy	90	120	170	200	230	810	409
Spain	65	107	133	167	216	688	491
Netherlands	160	220	280	340	400	1400	1556

Using PPH to reduce costs?

- The Patent Prosecution Highway is intended to expedite grant of patents at other patent offices, and can thereby reduce prosecution costs
- PPH is rarely effective between the EPO and USPTO as the patent systems are fundamentally very different
- Claim sets must be substantially identical – is this a good thing?



Agenda

-  Scope of Protection & Enforcement
-  When Can the Claims be Amended?
-  What are the Cost Considerations?
-  Putting it into Practice
-  Q & A

Putting it into Practice – How many claims?

- How many claims when drafting/prosecuting?
 - Cost (additional claims fees) vs. Flexibility to amend during prosecution
- How many claims upon grant?
 - Cost (translations and annuities) vs. Flexibility to amend post-grant
- No magic number
 - Will vary with territory, technology, competition...

Putting it into Practice – How many claims?

- Use all your free claims – U.S. (20), EPO (15), China (10)
- Use multiple claim dependencies where practical
- Number of claims vs. number of applications
 - Can the independent claims you require be pursued in a single application?
 - Think about unity and local requirements such as Rule 43(2) EPC and U.S. restriction practice

Putting it into Practice – What type of claims?

- Consider the infringer upfront and the claim categories your specific commercial product requires
- Where do you need the protection and will it be possible to enforce your claims in the relevant territories?

Agenda

-  Scope of Protection & Enforcement
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With special thanks to:
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Hwansung Park of Lee & Ko,
Daniel Miao Cheng of Cheng & Peng, and
Seiwa Patent & Law

Questions?

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Anthony managing partner of Finnegan's London office, has worked in Europe for most of his career, gaining significant knowledge of the European Patent Convention (EPC) and the diversity of laws and practice among the European national systems. His knowledge of the various legal systems and how they differ from the U.S. allows Anthony to effectively counsel clients across life sciences industries with global interests in intellectual property.

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